

Flathead Conservation District  
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901  
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

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### **CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

Chair Ronald Buentemeier called the July 23, 2018, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

### **Board members present:**

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

**Board members absent:** John Ellis and Mark Siderius, Supervisors. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Hailey Graf and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Erica Gerber, Summit Preparatory School; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM).

### **MINUTES**

Pete Woll motioned "to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2018, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Curtis motioned "to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018, Budget Permit meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publications  
*The NACD eResource, Conservation in the Caribbean, Conservation Clips*,  
<http://www.nacdnet.org>
2. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) newsletter  
*The Montana Conservationist* <http://swcdm.org>
3. Email: Whitefish Planning Board meeting, July 19, 6:00 P.M., Whitefish City Council Chambers. <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org>
4. Email: MACD reminder - upcoming dates and information for the upcoming Area meetings and convention:
  - \* **Area 5 Meeting:** Hosted by North Powell CD, September 25, Helmville, MT
  - \* **Resolutions:** Due **September 1** to MACD office. Resolution must be officially documented in the District's minutes.
  - \* **By-Law Changes:** If a district is seeking a change to MACD's current by-laws, please submit the requested change and reason for change to the MACD office by **September 1**.
  - \* **MACD Area Director Elections:** There is one MACD Board of Director



position up for election in each area this year. Directors must be current district supervisors in their respective area and only one director from a district may serve at a time. Director terms are 3 years.

5. Letter from Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) included:
  - 1) Thank-you to districts for dues,
  - 2) MACD 2017 Annual Report, and
  - 3) List of services provided by MACD & SWCDM.
6. Email: Supervisor Summit, August 29-30, Radisson Colonial Hotel, Helena. Contact Laverne Ivie, Yellowstone CD, 406-247-4220, [livie@mt.gov](mailto:livie@mt.gov)
7. Email: Cascade CD newsletter *Conservation Chronicle* <http://www.cascadecd.com>
8. Email: The Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks is seeking public comment on Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Guidelines and Missouri River Containment and Quarantine Plan. The Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Guidelines and MRCQP fulfill requirements outlined in MCA 80-7-1025 and can be viewed at [http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/fishing/pn\\_0090.html](http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/fishing/pn_0090.html)  
The final plans will be submitted to the Montana Invasive Species Council in November 2018. Public comment period ends on Aug. 13. Public comment can be submitted electronically at <http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/fishing/> or by mail to Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Fisheries Division, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620
9. Email: Area V meeting September 25, 2018, Helmville Community Center, 201 South Main Street, Hwy 141, Helmville, MT. Registration due September 14. Cost \$20 per person. Contact Susie, North Powell Conservation District, 406-415-4043, [Susie.johnson@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:Susie.johnson@mt.nacdnet.net)
10. Email: Gallatin CD July 19, 2018, meeting agenda.
11. Email: DNRC 310 Database for conservation districts is live and functioning. Contact Bob Flesher, DNRC, 406-444-4340 [bflesher@mt.gov](mailto:bflesher@mt.gov) for log-on information.
12. Email: Lewis & Clark Conservation District newsletter *The Explorer* <http://lccd.mt.nacdnet.org> includes photos of 2018 flood damage.
13. Email: Center for Native Plants inventory list Center for Native Plants, 5605 Hwy 93 South, Whitefish, MT 59937, (406) 862-4226, [www.centerfornativeplants.com](http://www.centerfornativeplants.com)
14. Email: Letter from Mark Suta, MACD President, included:
  - 1) Dan McGowman starts as the new MACD Executive Director on July 30<sup>th</sup>,
  - 2) A Strategic Plan will be sent to all districts after the draft is reviewed, and
  - 3) CD's are reminded to submit nominations for MACD Board representatives.

## **FINANCIAL**

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$266.80
2. USGS \$1730.00
3. VISA \$341.98

Pete Woll motioned "to approve the bills as presented." Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.


## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.



**Education Grant Request:** Erica Gerber, Summit Preparatory School, presented a grant request for her Advanced Stream Ecology class. Summit used a previous education grant to purchase water quality testing equipment, which allowed them to collect physical and chemical data that they incorporated into a GIS program. The students are sharing their data from Ashley Creek with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Whitefish Lake Institute. Erica is now requesting \$1505.85 to purchase equipment for macroinvertebrates collection and quantitative fecal coliform testing. Lori Curtis noted the equipment requested is very reasonable, and she would support the request. Valerie Kurth noted that Erica's students also recently helped with maintenance of plant protectors on the Reimer project. Pete Woll motioned "to approve the application for the education grant in the amount of \$1505.85 for Summit Preparatory School." Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fair:** Valerie Kurth explained that she and Hailey Graf are making preparations for the Northwest Montana Fair. They would like to wear something semi-professional that highlights FCD. Due to time restrictions, a simple screen-printed T-shirt would work for now, and other options could be discussed in the future. Total cost per shirt would be approximately \$27. Staff or Supervisors wanting a shirt could pick their own shirts. Shirts must be cotton and in a light color such as grey, blue or white. The conservation  and the district name would be printed on the front shoulder of the shirt. Verdell Jackson noted badges and hats with the district name could also be worn. Lori Curtis motioned "to approve screen printing T-shirts for the fair and other uses at the best price available." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hailey Graf reported she met with Teresa Wenum, Flathead National Forest, to view the booth space. They talked about having one theme that would tie the Flathead National Forest, National Park Service and Flathead Conservation District together as they will be sharing the space. Since it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wild & Scenic River Act, they will use this as the theme. The Rolling Rivers trailer will be used as a central display to help draw people into the booth. It will help make the mission of Flathead CD stand out and act as an educational tool. A sign will be purchased for the trailer to help identify the district and advertise its availability for educators and events. A visual perimeter will also be placed around the trailer to deter the public from touching it or playing with it. Pete Woll asked about the possibility of using magnetic signs for the trailer. Hailey stated that one of the companies she contacted about the shirts also does magnetic signs, so both shirts and signs could potentially be printed all in one order.

Hailey noted that a digital photo frame was purchased and about 300 photos were uploaded to it. The frame will be used at the fair to highlight FCD projects and activities. Hailey also asked supervisors to sign up to help in the booth.



**Supervisor Summit:** Valerie Kurth reported Cascade, Yellowstone and Lewis & Clark CD's are hosting the Supervisor Summit in Helena on August 29-30<sup>th</sup>. The Summit will focus on the upcoming legislative session, includes guest speakers and a tour of the capitol with the governor. Laurie Zeller contacted Valerie to ask if anyone from Flathead CD would be interested in giving a presentation about the FCD legislative breakfast. A brief discussion was held and most felt it unnecessary to attend the Summit. Valerie will contact Laurie to give her further information.

**Associate Supervisor Appointment:** Pete Woll stated after attending several meetings Dan Brosten is interested in becoming an Associate Supervisor. Pete Woll motioned "to appoint Dan Brosten as an Associate Supervisor." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Staff will send a letter to Dan.

### **Supervisor Recruitment**

Valerie Kurth asked, with the appointment of Dan Brosten as an Associate, if the board still wanted to continue the discussion of supervisor recruitment, which was initiated at the last business meeting. She noted that there is no formal process for filling Supervisor positions. At the beginning of 2019, Ronald Buentemeier and Verdell Jackson will be appointed by acclamation because no one else ran for the positions. The Board can appoint someone to the remaining position, either an Associate or someone found through advertising. Valerie noted that we did advertise for the primary election and received several phone calls, however, no one new submitted their name. Valerie stated word of mouth is also very powerful, and it would be good to have more than one Associate Supervisor. Verdell Jackson asked if Associates were compensated for their time like regular Supervisors. Pete Woll explained that they are paid just like Supervisors and may even do 310 onsite inspections when asked. Ronald added that Associates are paid so they are covered under district workers' compensation.

**End of Month Report (June):** The June End of Month Budget report was reviewed with the Board. It was noted that the College Scholarship line under Education went over the budgeted amount by \$264 due to advertising; however, the total expenditures under the Education line was within the budget. Lori Curtis motioned "to approve the June End of Month Budget report." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS**

**Flathead CD Staff:** Valerie Kurth and Hailey Graf reported:

#### ***District Office and Outreach***

1. Advertisements: Flathead Beacon (Summer 310 and Erosion), Mountain Trader (summer 310)
2. Hailey and Valerie attended the Advanced Forest Insect and Disease Management training on June 26-28<sup>th</sup>. The training covered identification and management of many common forest insects and diseases, and it included both indoor presentations and several local field trips. The instructors were from the Forest Service (Forest Health Protection) and Montana DNRC. It was a very well-organized and interesting training.



3. In preparation for the fair, Hailey met with Teresa Wenum from the Flathead National Forest, along with representatives from the National Park Service and the Flathead County Weed Department.

### ***310-related***

Valerie researched buried revetment projects and previous conservation districts' 310-law determinations to guide supervisors at the June 310-meeting. Hailey participated in the 310 onsite for FL2018033 (Pfeifer Trust).

### ***On-the-Ground Projects***

Cow Creek – Valerie has been working with Christina Staten, the DEQ project manager, to finalize the 319 contract language and scope of work. The contract will be ready in 1-2 weeks.

Haskill Creek – Valerie showed Hailey and Erica Gerber (teacher at Summit Prep) the bank stabilization project on the Reimer property. They discussed project maintenance strategies and coordinated a field visit for Erica's students to help repair the browse protection.

### ***Landowner Programs***

#### **Cost-Shares**

FY18 – Valerie and Hailey conducted the follow up inspection for the Bromley weed control cost-share. All of last year's cost-share contracts are now complete.

FY19 – Valerie compiled and mailed contract packets for the four recently-approved cost-share projects to the landowners. She and Jessica Ressel (NRCS) visited the one remaining proposed project site to assess the objectives and potential alternatives. They will work with the landowner to develop a rehabilitation plan.

Seedling Program – the DNRC Nursery recently released its inventory for next year and will start taking orders in September.

### ***Education and Outreach***

Rolling Rivers – Valerie, Hailey, and Pete Woll took the Rolling Rivers Trailer to Summit Preparatory School on May 31<sup>st</sup> and presented to approximately 15 students. Following the presentation, students conducted an experiment to measure the effectiveness of different erosion prevention techniques.

Watershed and Riparian Learning: At the Forestry Expo site, Valerie, Hailey, Michael Barene, and Dean Sirucek presented the Riparian Station to 7 Chinese exchange students, 2 interpreters, and 5 adult chaperones, who were participating in a program hosted by the Forest Service.

#### **Website/social media**

Hailey wrote several new posts for our website and Facebook page on topics including the Montana drought outlook, harmful algal blooms, how to reduce mosquitoes with bat houses, and how boat wakes cause erosion. Website traffic was consistently about 15 users/day from June 26<sup>th</sup> - July 20<sup>th</sup>, and the total number of users was 349 during that time period. Facebook posts reached 228 individual users this month.



### **Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM):**

Samantha Tappenbeck, reported:

#### **Riparian Grazing Workshops summary:**

- 75 participants in Helena, Deer Lodge, and Thompson Falls
- 13 in attendance, 3 private landowners/ranchers
- Sandy Wyman's slides posted to SWCDM website, available for download:  
<http://swcdm.org/programs/riparian-grazing-workshops/>

#### **Upcoming events:**

- Next Governor's Drought & Water Supply Advisory Committee Meeting  
**July 26, 9:30-11:30AM;** skype and call-in available, more info:  
<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/drought-management>
- Environmental Quality Council meeting  
**July 25, 10:00AM-5:20PM; July 26, 8:00AM-3:30PM**  
Live stream available: <http://www.leg.mt.gov/>
- Collaborative Meeting for the 3 Forks Flathead Wild and Scenic River  
Comprehensive River Management Plan: Cultural / Ethnology; **July 25, 5:45-8:00PM**, Flathead Nat'l Forest Supervisor's Office, 650 Wolfpack Way

#### **Resources:**

- Ranching 4 Profit webinars:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb\\_vJuIGo1TPJqRQIzS9e-A/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb_vJuIGo1TPJqRQIzS9e-A/featured)
- Drought destocking webinar:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1UH4Xcdbhc&feature=youtu.be>

**Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS):** The new NRCS District Conservationist (DC) will start the second week of September. Jessica Ressel will be acting DC until the end of August.

**Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD):** Pete Woll reported that the new Executive Director, Dan McGowan, will start July 30<sup>th</sup>, but he had participated in the Executive phone meeting that morning. Dan had commented that he reviewed the MACD procedures and had noticed several loopholes that may need correcting. Everyone was looking forward him starting the job and moving forward. Pete also noted that when he agreed to serve another term on MACD last year, he thought it would be for 1 year. Now it appears to be another 3-year term.

Ronald Buentemeier asked if MACD is attending the Supervisor Summit as he did not see them on the agenda. Pete stated the hosting districts applied for funding through DNRC, and DNRC only approved them if they agreed to invite representatives from MACD. MACD has now been invited but is at the end of the agenda.





**Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB):** Dean Sirucek reported the meeting included five zone change requests, all of which went forward with positive recommendations to the commissioners. The next meeting is August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB):** No report. Copies of the Whitefish Planning Board July 19, 2018, meeting agenda were distributed to the board.

**Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3):** Lori Curtis reported the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Flathead Lake Biological Station included updates on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding and an update from Peter Gross, President of the Montana Seaplane Pilots Association and Field Director of the National Seaplane Pilots Association. UC3 has an intern coming this summer to help develop a Marina/Moored Vessel program. Lori will present at the Environmental Quality Council meeting on 7/25. The next UC3 meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup> at Glacier National Park.

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC):** No report.

**Flathead Basin Commission (FBC):** The next meeting is October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Flathead River Commission (FRC):** No report.

Hailey Graf reported she provided Mark Siderius with information for the Three Forks Flathead Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan, as FRC may be interested in reviewing the plan in the fall.

**Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC):** Verdell Jackson reported the CFKRBC is working on the legislation for the four river councils in Montana. The changes to the legislation is intended to expand membership in the councils. Dave Shively, from CFKRBC, will present the legislation to the Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC)

#### **MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- **310 Committee Meeting:** July 31, Helena, 10-3. Valerie Kurth stated Bob Flesher, DNRC, sent out suggested changes to the application and instructions. Valerie reviewed and developed a summary of the changes. The changes seem to give more clarification and offers more chance for explanation/detail, as well as include recommendations for AIS. Pete Woll and Valerie will tentatively attend.
- **Resolutions:** Supervisors were given copies of an email from Ann McCauley regarding upcoming Area meetings. Resolutions are due September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Area V meeting will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Helmville Community Center, Helmville, MT. Registration is due 9/14.
- **Stalowy:** Valerie Kurth reported that Stalowy had recently submitted a permit extension request, and she wondered if the board wanted to consider it at the next 310 meeting, per the usual extension process. The board agreed that it should be considered at the August 13, 310-meeting.
- **Adopted Rules Updates:** Valerie Kurth stated she had received some comments, suggested changes and edits. Lori Curtis and Valerie will compile these and email



out prior to the 8/13 meeting. Verdell Jackson noted that after talking with a supervisor from another district he will not be submitting legislation to change the definition of the team. Pete Woll stated that the total number of arbitrations and litigations since 310 came in to effect is approximately 1% of the total we have received, which is remarkable, and noted we are doing something right. Ronald Buentemeier asked staff to provide a summary of all 310 permits, complaints, emergencies, arbitrations and litigations.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13, 2018, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Lori Curtis motioned "to adjourn." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman  
Administrator

Valerie Kurth, Ph. D.  
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>8/13/2018</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)

